MESSAGE COMINT OUTGOING Approved For Release 2000/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932AQ00100080007-3 0 ZCM CLASSIFICATION DATE-TIME GROUP MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATO CIA/WHZZ SOURCE REF: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIOR STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION . ч 25Х1А9а CIA REPRITEASURY DEPT//INFO FOR WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVEDY AUG 3, 1974 DATE: ITEM NO: PHILIPPINE FIRST LADY PLANS PEKING VISIT SUBJECT: REF 25X1A2q IMELDA MARCOS, WIFE OF THE PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT, IS PLANNING A "CULTURAL" VISIT TO CHINA IN MID-AUGUST 25X1X6 25X1X6 ACCORDING TO FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO. THE COMPOSITION OF MRS. MARCOS' PARTY HAS NOT BEEN DEFINITELY DECIDED, BUT THAT NO SENIOR FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS WOULD ACCOMPANY HER. MRS. MARCOS, WHO CONSIDERS HERSELF HER NATION'S MOST IMPORTANT DIPLOMAT, HAS LONG WANTED TO VISIT CHINA. THE TIMING OF HER VISIT IS IN STEP WITH MANILA'S IN-

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CREASING INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH PEKING.

PRESIDENT MARCOS BELIEVES THAT CHINA IS POTENTIALLY AN

IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER FOR THE PHILIPPINES. PARTICU
LARLY AS A SUPPLIER OF RICE AND OIL.

MARCOS RECENTLY ASSURED THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, HOWEVER, THAT MANILA DOES NOT ANTICIPATE FORMAL DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH PEKING ANYTIME SOON.

MANILA'S CONTROLLED PRESS WILL GIVE CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY TO MRS. MARCOS' TRIP, BUT THIS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE ANY CHANGE IN MARCOS' "GO SLOW" POLICY TOWARD OPENING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

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